F Post 4/19/79

FBI expert links bullet to gun found in mattress of Wersick

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ROCKVILLE — A special FBI firearms expert testified Wednesday that the bullet found in the car of a murdered Rockville tax assessor was fired from the same gun as a bullet taken from the mattress of Paul E. Wersick, the 16-year-old charged with the killing.

Even Hodge, the expert, said both missiles were fired from the same .38-caliber revolver. Although the gun has not been introduced into evidence yet, police recovered the weapon in the attic of the Wheaton apartment building where Wersick lived with his mother last summer at the time George E. Angerman Jr., 36, was shot to death.

Earlier on Wednesday, the third day of the trial, detectives told the jury that they confiscated one .38-caliber bullet from Wersick's mattress in his third floor bedroom, and another from the mattress cover. Also recovered were four slugs taken from the wall behind the defendant's bed.

Cpl. Rodney Ingels described the bedroom as cluttered with ammunition, testifying that he found a cigar box "full" of "several hundred" bullets in the room, a rifle casing and four live .38-caliber bullets on the table next to the youth's bed.

Ingels said police also found a hidden holster, reportedly belonging to the murder weapon. Last week, a county grand jury indicted Wersick for the robbery of a District of Columbia police officer's home in Wheaton, from which the gun, holster and some ammunition were taken prior to the murder.

Assistant State's Attorney Larry Ceppos introduced into evidence pictures taken in Wersick's room, showing portions of a Boy Scout uniform, but testimony revealed that no neckerchief was located with the other articles of clothing.

Angerman's body was found gagged with a red Boy Scout neckerchief, which was introduced into evidence along with the photographs. In addition, Ceppos showed the jury a color photo of Wersick and two friends, all dressed in scouting uniforms and wearing the traditional neckerchiefs.

Another prosecution witness, Dr. Virginia L. Dolan, assistant state medical examiner, testified that Angerman died of the gunshot wound to the head. But she was unable to say whether death was immediate or within a half hour of the shooting.

During cross-examination by Public Defender J. James McKenna, Officer Barry Litsky testified that he saw Wersick in a large area near his home, where police were searching for more clues to the killing. A county employee had found Angerman's wallet, which had been discarded in tall grass there, and had turned it over to the police after hearing about the murder. There was $26 in the wallet, according to police.

Litsky said the youth had two large bags of coins in each of his pockets and told the officer he had finally saved enough money for a Darth Vader mask. Litsky said he saw Wersick again on several occasions that day as the youth walked back and forth across the police search route.

Last time he saw Wersick, the officer said, the youth had two carrots and a camera, and asked if he could go into the woods to feed his groundhog.

Last July 11, Angerman's body was found slumped in his grey Mercury Capri in a lower level parking space beneath the Unibank Building in Rockville. He had been murdered sometime in the afternoon the day before, according to testimony.

Wersick was arrested several days later after fingerprints taken from the car were traced to the youth, who was found to have been "involved" in the killing of an 11-year-old Wheaton girl two years earlier.

Because of that incident, the youth's prints were on file with police.

McKenna has entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity at the time of the killing, but both the prosecution and the defense have agreed that the teenager now is sane and competent to stand trial.

The case will resume at 9:30 a.m. today, when the sequestered jury will be driven back to the courthouse by sheriff's deputies from the Sheraton Inn just off Shady Grove Road, Gaithersburg, not far from the former home of the murder victim.

Next week, the jury will be quartered in Frederick County, because closer accommodations were unavailable as a result of the annual springtime influx of visitors to the nation's capital.